SURAH OF AT-TAKATHUR

THE RESEARCH:
SURAH OF AT-TAKATHUR

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THE REFERENCES

1) https://quran.com/at-takathur/info

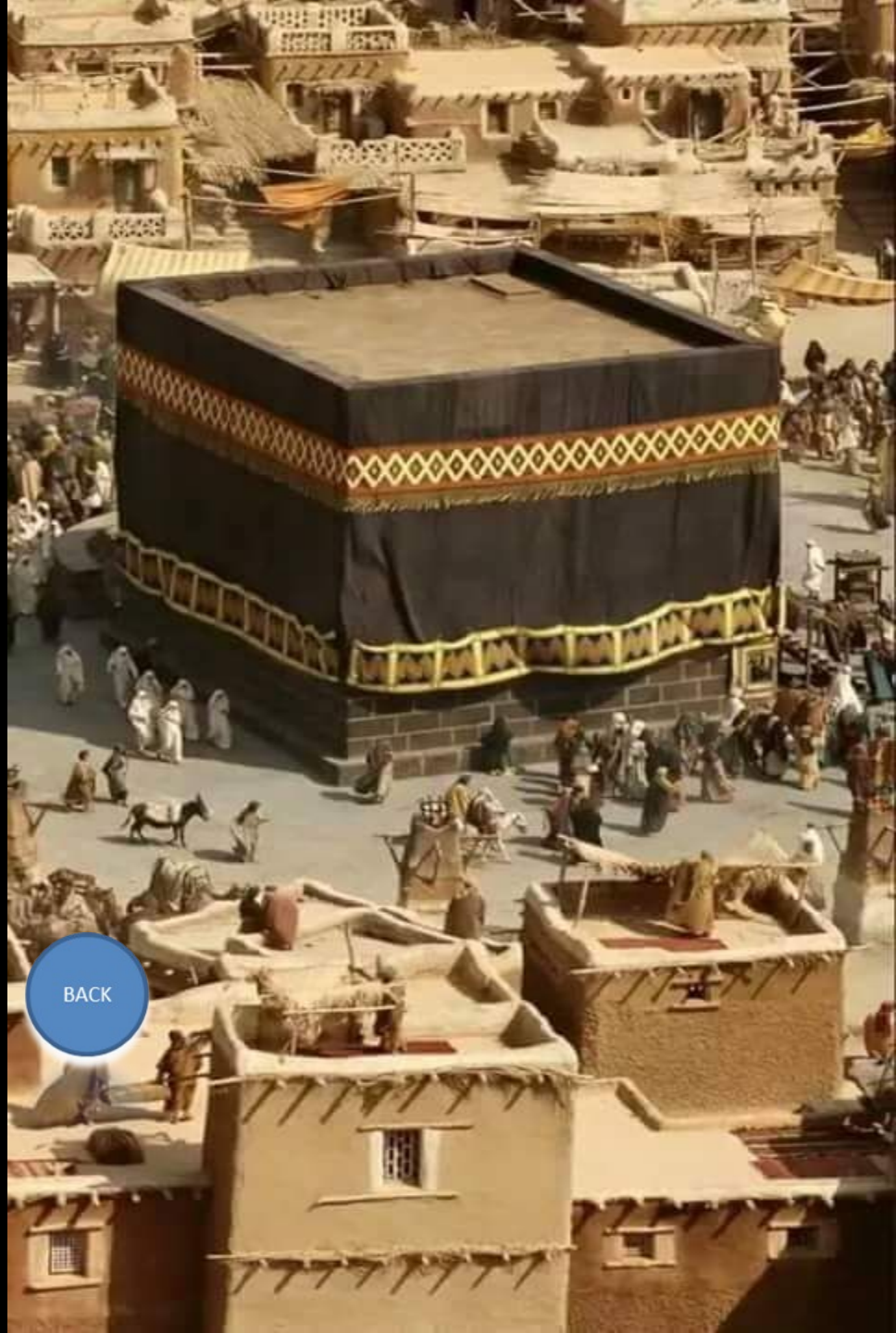
2) https://quran.com/at-takathur

THE BACKGROUND 1

Adapted from Tafsir Ibn Ashur

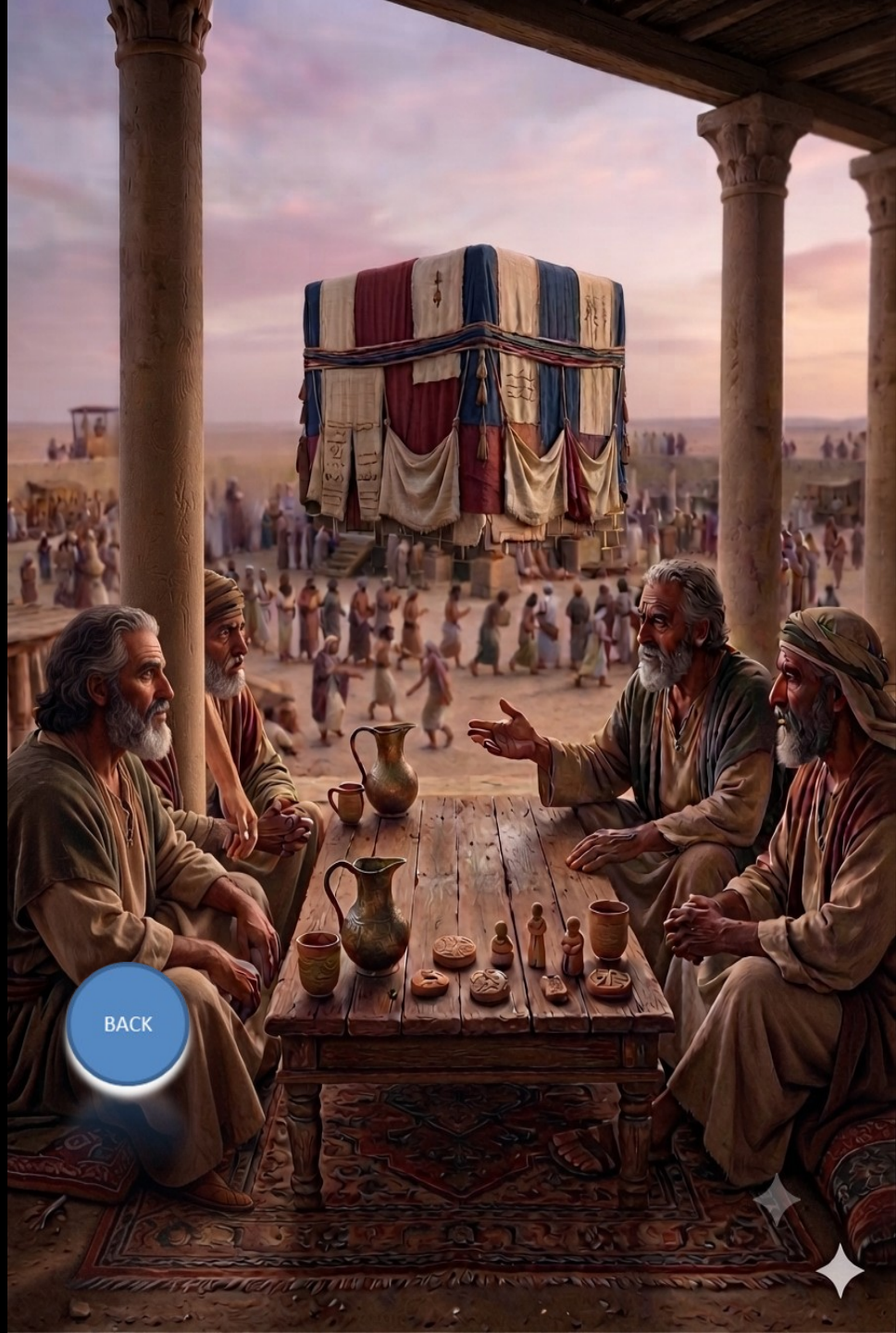
Themes and purpose:

This Meccan surah strongly condemns the human obsession with material competition (al-takāthur) and boasting in lineage, which distracts from the truth. Its purpose is to affirm the certainty of the Judgment and the Hellfire, and to warn humanity that they will be questioned about every single worldly pleasure and blessing on that Day.



Context of Revelation:

- Era: Makkan according to the majority, and this is evident from its severe warning to the polytheists. Some were of the view that it is Madinan.
- Context: The surah was revealed to address the pervasive problem among the Quraysh (or later, the Anṣār in Madinah) of tribes boasting and competing over their material wealth and the number of their family members, even extending this count to the graves of their deceased ancestors.
- Chronology: It is counted as the 16th surah in the order of revelation, revealed after Sūrat al-Kawthar and before al-Māʿūn.



Name

The surah is known as "Sūrat al-Takāthur" (The Piling Up/Competition), also "Sūrat Alhākum" (Preoccupied You), based on the opening ayah. From ayah 2, it has also been called "Sūrat al-Maqbarah" (The Graveyard).

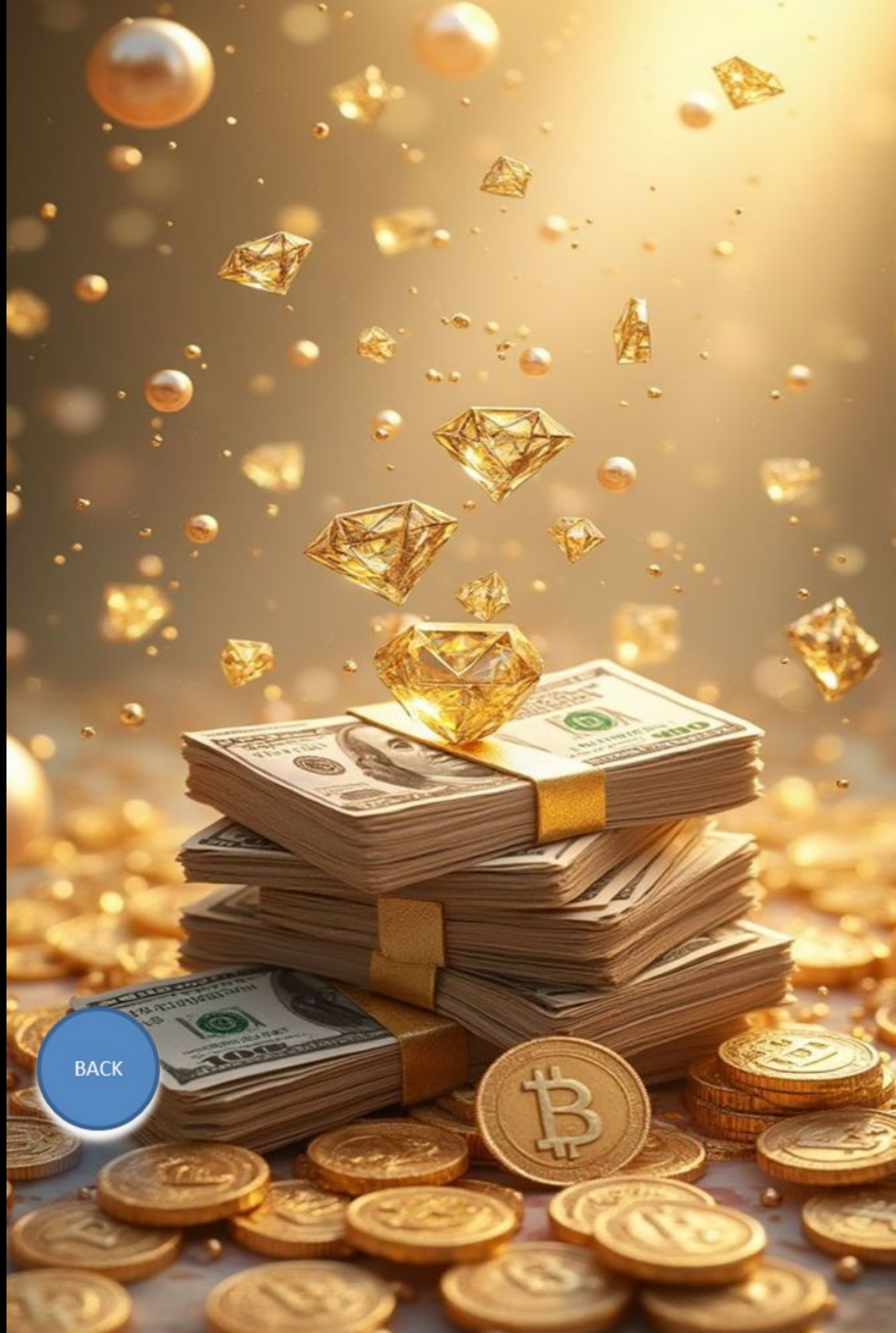
Surah Overview:

- Condemnation: Severely rebuking the mushrikūn for their preoccupation with worldly wealth and boasting in their ancestors until they reach the graves. [1-2]
- The Judgment: Warning them of the certainty of the Hellfire. [5-7]
- Accountability: Affirming that they will be held fully accountable and questioned about every single blessing and pleasure they enjoyed in this world. [8]

THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2

أَلْهَىٰكُمُ ٱلتَّكَاثُرُ ۝١

Competition for more gains diverts you from Allah,



حَتَّىٰ زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ ﴿٢﴾

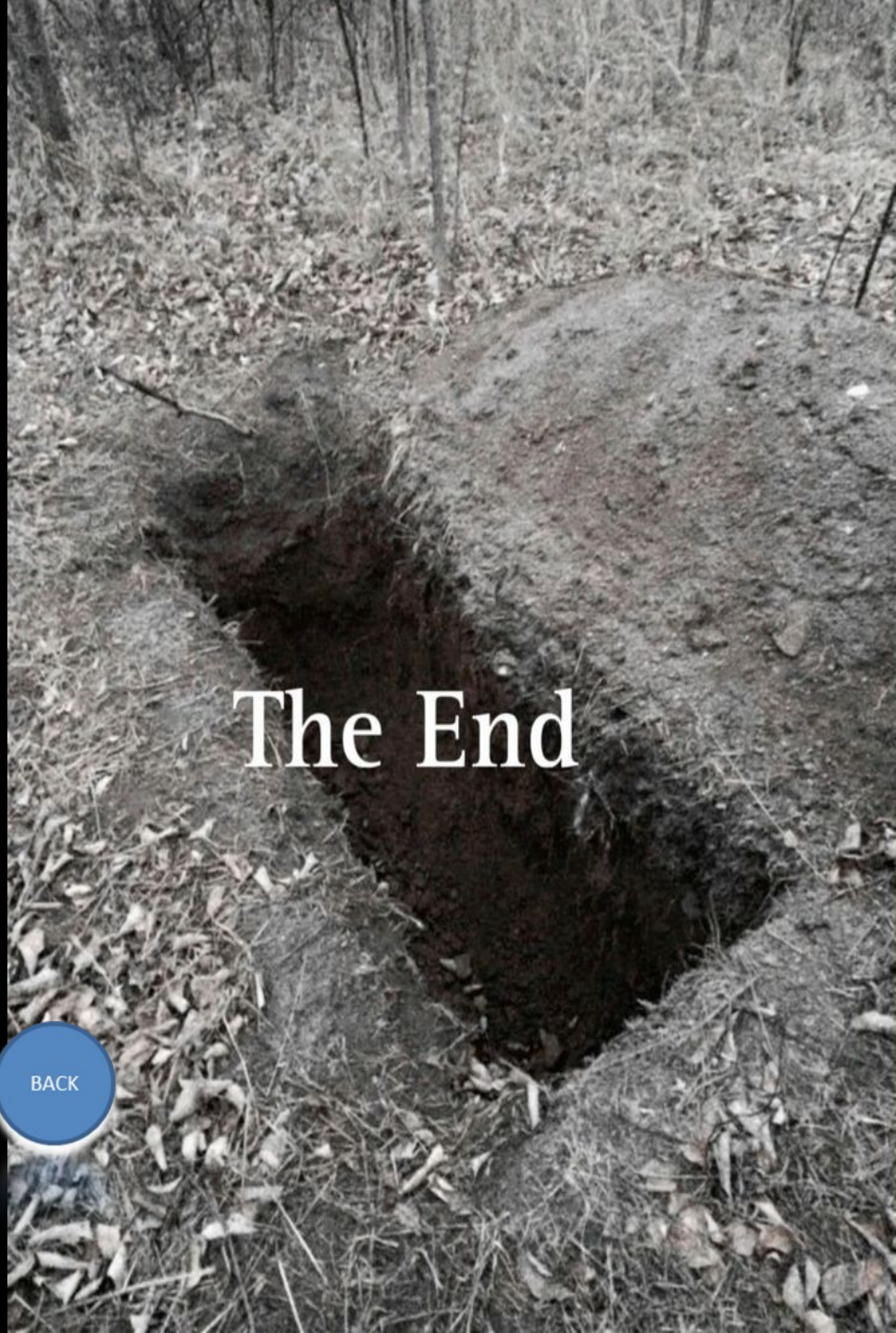
until you end up in [your] graves.1

Footnote - 1

lit., visited the graves, since the stay in the grave is brief, followed by eternal life either in Paradise or Hell.

كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ ٣

But no! You will soon come to know.



أَلْهَىٰكُمُ ٱلتَّكَاثُرُ ﴿١﴾ حَتَّىٰ زُرْتُمُ ٱلْمَقَابِرَ ﴿٢﴾ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣﴾ ثُمَّ
كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤﴾ كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عِلْمَ ٱلْيَقِينِ ﴿٥﴾ لَتَرَوُنَّ ٱلْجَحِيمَ ﴿٦﴾

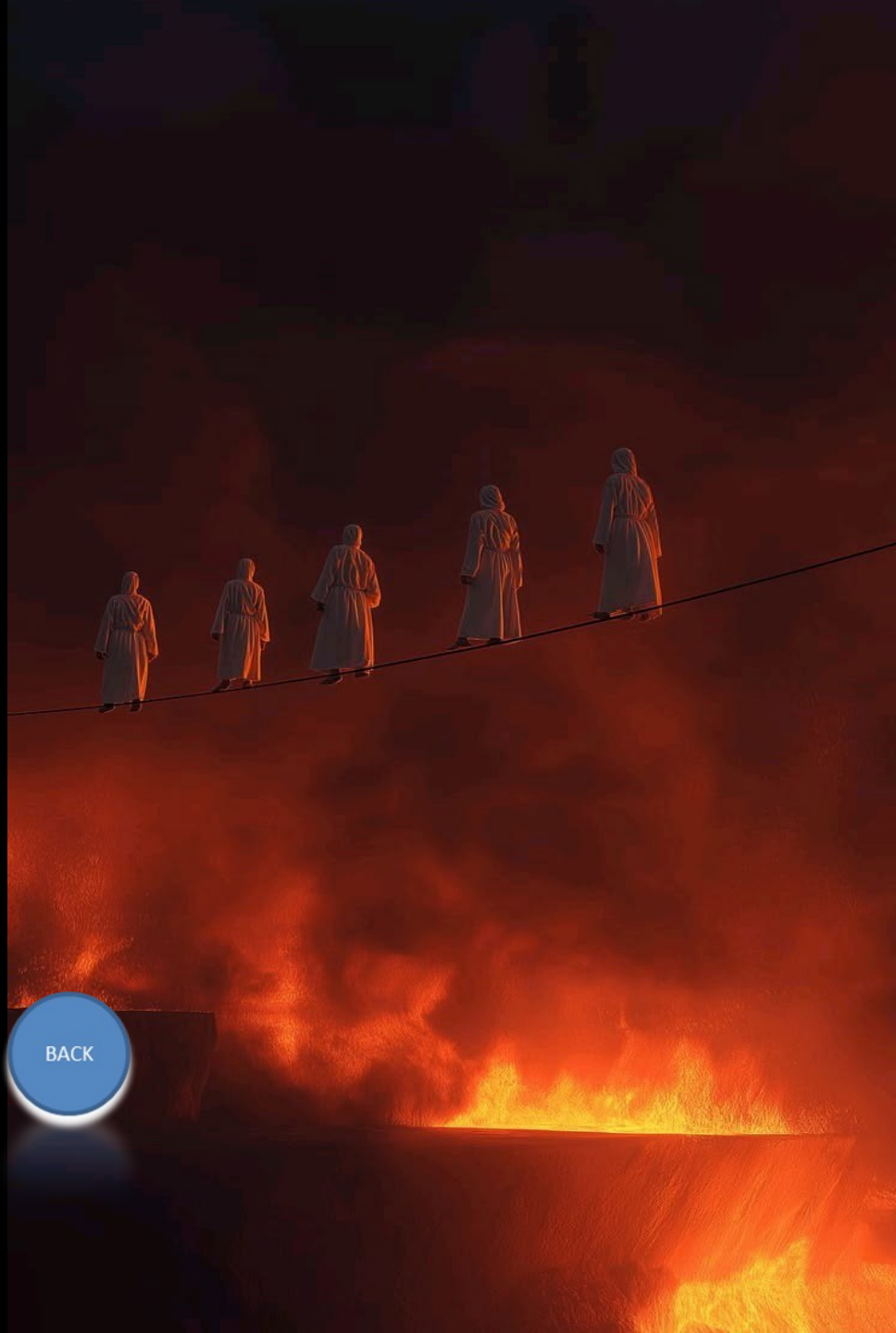
Again, no! You will soon come to know.

كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عِلْمَ الْيَقِينِ ٥

Indeed, if you were to know [your fate] with certainty, [you would have acted differently].

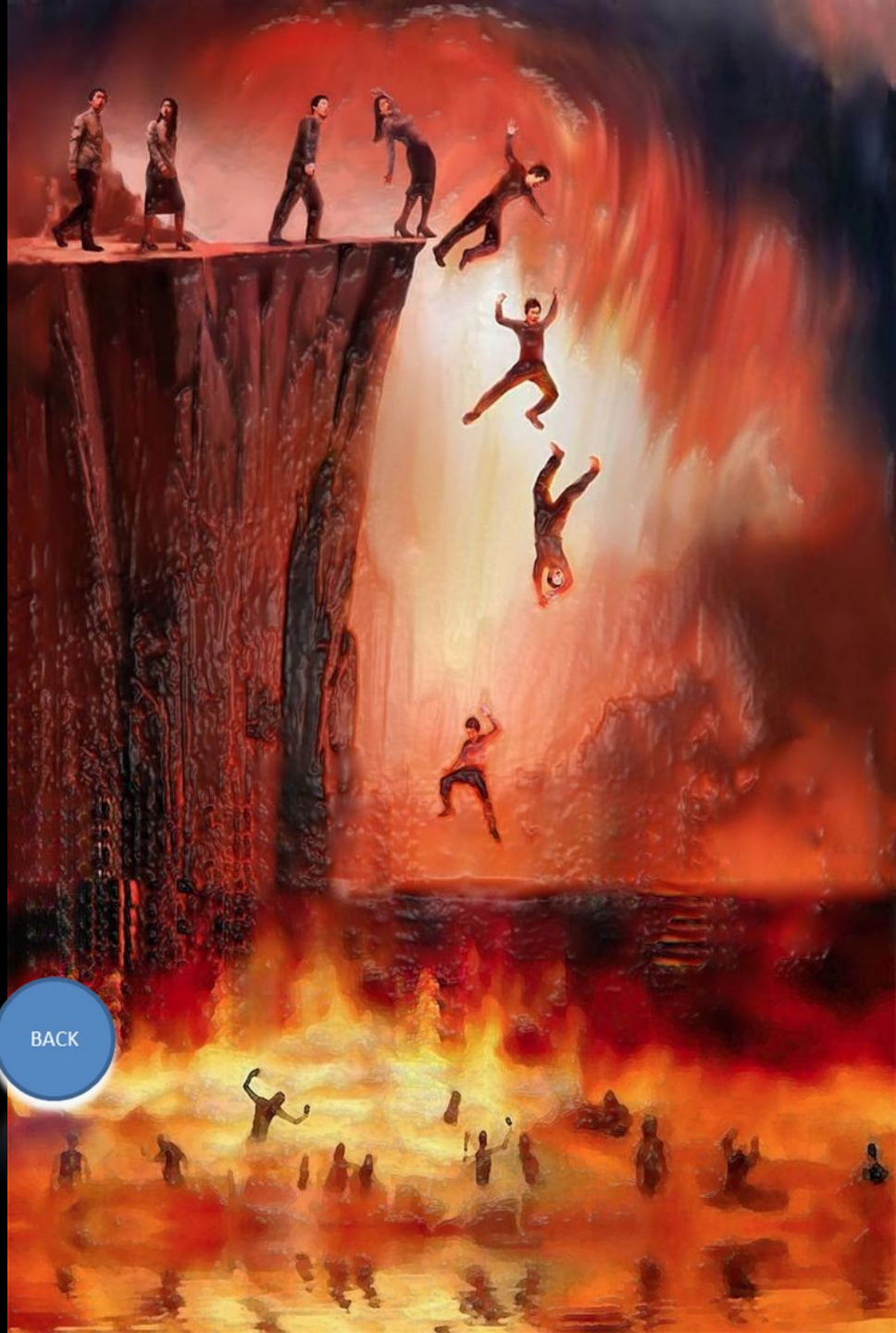
لَتَرَوُنَّ ٱلْجَحِيمَ ٦

□But□ you will surely see the Hellfire.



ثُمَّ لَتَرَوُنَّهَا عَيْنَ ٱلْيَقِينِ ٧

Again, you will surely see it with the eye of certainty.



ثُمَّ لَتُسْـَٔلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ ٱلنَّعِيمِ ﴿٨﴾

Then, on that Day, you will definitely be questioned about your worldly pleasures.

EXCERCISES
BACK

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) What is the meaning of the word At-Takāthur?

2) How many verses are there in Surah At-Takāthur?

3) What distracted people according to the surah?

4) Until what point did people continue competing in worldly gains?

5) What will people eventually see according to the surah?

6) What blessing does Allah say people will be questioned about?

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) Why does the surah criticize excessive competition for worldly possessions?
2) What does the phrase "until you visit the graves" imply?
3) What lesson is repeated through the words "No! You are going to know"?
4) Why does Allah mention seeing Hellfire in this surah?
5) How does the surah remind people of the temporary nature of worldly life?

3. Applying

1) How can a student avoid being distracted by competition for wealth or status?
2) What actions can a Muslim take to show gratitude for Allah's blessings?
3) How can the message of this surah influence the way people spend their time?
4) In what ways can remembering death help a person make better decisions?
5) How can this surah help someone set priorities in life?

4. Analyzing

1) What is the relationship between being distracted by worldly competition and forgetting the Hereafter?
2) Why does the surah move from discussing worldly rivalry to mentioning the grave and Hellfire?
3) How does the repetition of warnings strengthen the message of the surah?
4) Compare the attitude of a person focused only on worldly gains with that of a person preparing for the Hereafter.
5) What evidence from the surah shows that worldly success alone is not true success?

5. Evaluating

1) Why is excessive competition for wealth harmful to individuals and society?
2) Do you think modern life makes the message of this surah more relevant? Explain.
3) Which warning in the surah do you think is the strongest, and why?
4) Why is gratitude for blessings an important part of faith?
5) How effective is the surah in changing a person's perspective on success?

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Create a slogan that summarizes the main message of Surah At-Takāthur.
2) Write a short paragraph explaining how this surah can guide a Muslim's daily life.
3) Design a poster idea that illustrates the contrast between worldly competition and preparation for the Hereafter.

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

4) Write three practical lessons that young people can learn from this surah.

5) Imagine you are giving advice to someone obsessed with wealth and status. Using the teachings of Surah At-Takāthur, what would you say?

6) Create a mind map showing the progression of ideas in the surah from worldly distraction to accountability before Allah.

Higher-Order Reflection

4) If people truly believed they would be questioned about every blessing, how might their behavior change?
5) How would society be different if the teachings of Surah At-Takāthur were widely followed?
6) What does this surah teach about the difference between temporary success and eternal success?
7) How can a person balance enjoying Allah's blessings while avoiding the mistake warned against in this surah?

و الحمد لله رب العالمين